

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 2, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer,

As you know, June 1 marked the beginning of the 2017 Hurricane Season. As a senator of a coastal state that has been visited in recent years by numerous costly natural disasters, you perhaps share the sense of urgency of installing leadership at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Accordingly, we respectfully request your personal leadership to ensure a thorough, expeditious confirmation process for President Trump's nominee for FEMA administrator, Mr. Brock Long.

You might likewise agree that FEMA and the Stafford Act are in need of substantial reform, which unfortunately is a fact the reveals itself primarily during major catastrophes like Super Storm Sandy and the 2016 Louisiana floods. While Congress engages in the necessary debate of emergency management reform, it is vitally important to have in place a leader at the agency responsible for managing federal emergencies.

In addition to the constant array of unpredictable disasters like fires and floods, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has predicted an "above-normal" hurricane season with possibly five to nine major hurricanes developing in the Atlantic Ocean this year. The citizens of Louisiana and coastal communities throughout the nation cannot afford to have potential disaster response capabilities hindered due to partisan politics. Any delay of Mr. Long's confirmation will also needlessly stymie additional staffing requirements at the agency for crucial disaster recovery positions.

We look forward to your cooperation in this important matter.

Respectfully,



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham, MD
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Johnson" clearly legible.

Mike Johnson
Member of Congress